



David B. Cohen
Mayor

CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Department of Planning and Development
Michael J. Kruse, Director

Telephone
(617)-796-1120

Telefax
(617) 796-1142

E-mail
mkruse@ci.newton.ma.us

Public Hearing Date:	June 14, 2004
Zoning and Planning Action Date:	To be determined
Board of Aldermen Action Date:	September 7, 2004
90-Day Expiration Date:	September 26, 2004

TO: Board of Aldermen
Planning and Development Board

FROM: Michael Kruse, Director of Planning and Development
Juris G. Alksnitis, Associate Director of Planning and Economic Development

SUBJECT: PETITION #432-01 of ALD. SANGIOLO proposing to add a definition for "recreational facilities" to Sec. 30-1 of the Zoning Ordinance.

CC: Mayor David B. Cohen
Philip B. Herr, Chair, Comprehensive Planning Advisory Committee

RECOMMENDATION: HOLD, pending completion of research.

Following considerable debate and discussion, on March 18, 2002, the Board of Aldermen adopted Ordinance X-10, which added a new definition for "health club" to Section 30-1, *Definitions*. Since that time, a number of fitness type businesses have located within the City. As most have not readily fit the new definition, they have been handled consistent with the zoning use category most nearly similar to the service character of such businesses, i.e. as fitness service establishments.

The current petition to establish a definition for "recreational facility" needs to be considered in light of the existing "health club" definition and implementation experience to date. In addition, it will be important to ascertain the scope of this new definition, its relation to "health clubs", and its intended application to commercial, institutional, and various non-commercial uses.

The Planning Department is currently researching this subject, which includes a review of any comparable definitions as provided and implemented in zoning codes of other Massachusetts municipalities, as well as of other communities. This research and resultant analysis should be available prior to scheduling this item for a Working Session. Any input received at the public hearing will also be used to inform the Planning Department analysis and recommendation.